

INFORMATION REPORT

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DATE DISC. 29 MAR 51

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SUBJECT New pro-Tito (Babic) Communist
Party Policy

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

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INFO

1. On 12 February 1951 Mario Stocca, head of the Independentist bloc, met in Koper with Branco Babic, pro-Tito Communist leader in the Free Territory of Trieste, and Jose Dekleva, pro-Tito municipal Councillor. Babic stated that he had hoped to meet with Stocca before addressing the Central Committee of the pro-Tito Communist Party in Trieste on 10 February, but was unable to do so because of illness. Stocca said that he had read the report of Babic's address to the Central Committee, in which Babic stated that the new policy would be to advocate an independent Trieste, but that he, Stocca, had found the wording of the entire report vague and the contents too general to be easily understood or to have much significance.
2. The three men then studied the report point by point and whenever Stocca pointed out a statement as being vague, Babic would reply that it was not yet time to elaborate on it. Finally, Stocca declared that the discussion was useless if Babic would not reveal what he really meant by advocating "independence for Trieste", since it was not clear whether he meant the city of Trieste, Zone A only or both Zone A and Zone B. Babic then told Stocca, requesting that it be kept secret, that their new policy was to work for the independence of the entire Territory and advocate the implementation of the Peace Treaty. However, inasmuch as this was a radical change of policy for the Yugoslavs, its revelation would be gradual and its full significance could be made known only when the Party members could be oriented towards accepting it. Babic added. The entire plan, however, would be revealed in sufficient time to include it in the pro-Tito pre-election campaign. Stocca replied that he would reserve his opinion until the entire policy had been made public.

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